

THE DODHH BULLETIN

Mission: The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing with the guidance of the Advisory Council shall affirm the indisputable right of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons to secure effective communication.

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www.mcdc-dodhh.org

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Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Spring-Summer 2006

Interpreter Bill Introduced

HB 6087

Representative John Gleason of Flushing introduced a long-promised bill that would require the courts, police, schools, colleges, hospitals, doctor's offices, banks, credit unions, employers and lawyers to provide ac-



DODHH Director Chris Hunter (left) expresses appreciation to Rep. Gleason (right) for introduction of the Interpreter Bill. Photo Credit: Howard Potrude

commodations to employ qualified sign language interpreters under rules promulgated by the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Michigan House bill number, **HB 6087**, introduced on May 18, 2006, may be the most important bill DODHH has been pushing

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CapTel Begins July 1, 2006

AT&T Michigan and Hamilton Relay announced that the CapTel (Captioned Telephone) service in Michigan will officially start on July 1, 2006! The CapTel works like any other telephone with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. CapTel phone users can listen to the caller, and can also read the written captions in the CapTel's bright display window.

For benefits and more information, check this website address: <http://www.captionedtelephone.com/index.phtml>

Best of all, the special Michigan price for the CapTel telephone is only \$99! This price includes a no-risk 90 day guarantee. If you are not completely satisfied with CapTel, the phone can be returned within 90 days for a full refund. After 90 days' trial, it is yours to keep. There will be no additional charge for the unit!

The first 100 people may have the opportunity to start using CapTel on July 1st. The printable application form is on page 8. Don't delay. Send it in today!

If you have friends, family members, or colleagues who are interested in obtaining CapTel, please let them know that 25 more people will be added to the CapTel service on a monthly basis. If they have any questions, they can contact Weitbrecht Communications at 800-233-9130 v/t or DODHH at 877-499-6232.



DODHH

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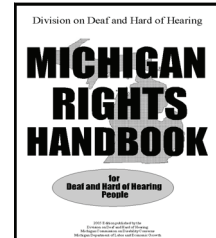


Director's Corner

By Chris Hunter

Cost Saving Publications: From now and on, THE DODHH BULLETIN, and TTY, SERVICE AND INTERPRETER DIRECTORY are posted on our website and emailed to our subscribers in an effort to cut printing and postage costs. While we realize that not all people have computers to receive our publications, we will print out and mail to individuals upon request.

Michigan Rights Handbook for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. The 165-page handbook is completed but it will not be printed because of cost. It is available in PDF and MS Word formats on CD and web. A computer is needed to open and read it. It will be mailed to you upon request. The website address is www.mcdd-dodhh.org.



My Retirement. At the DODHH Advisory Council meeting on May 5, I announced my retirement on Jan 1, 2007. I will have served 26.9 years. Duncan Wyeth, MCDC Executive Director announced that my position will be filled.

Job Vacancy with DODHH

State Interpreter Coordinator (Department Specialist 13)

Duty: Coordinate the state Quality Assurance screening process for the community and educational interpreters with the administration of the national Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment tests. Provide technical assistance in communication accessibility, maintain state interpreter database, serve as RID continuing education sponsor, coordinate continuing education requirements for interpreters, provide training and informational seminars, serve as liaison to various organizations, and provide interpreting service within the office and department.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree, possession of national certificate (RID, NAD, EIPA or NIC)

Annual Salary: \$42,265.60 to \$63,065.60 plus health, dental, vision and long term disability insurances, annual leave, sick leave, 12 paid holidays, retirement, 401k

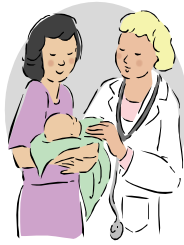
Send: Cover letter, resume, transcripts and copy of interpreter certificate to: Chris Hunter, Director, Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing - DLEG, 201 North Washing Square, Suite 150, Lansing, MI 48909, Fax (517) 335-7773; hunterc2@michigan.gov.

Deadline: July 17, 2006

More information: <http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/vacancyweb/vacancyinq.asp>

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

In 1998 the average age at which a child in Michigan was identified with hearing loss was two years old. In 2004, the age of hearing loss identification had dropped to three and a half months! This is due in large part to the introduction of Newborn Hearing Screening, which is conducted within one month of a baby's birth.



DODHH serves on the Michigan Department of Community Health's EHDI Advisory Board. Early hearing detection is important to us because early diagnosis can lead to early intervention. In the past, many children "fell through the cracks" and families were not directed to appropriate services and programs because hearing loss was not diagnosed in a timely manner. Today children are screened in the hospital for hearing loss,

and if there are any concerns, then follow-up diagnostics are recommended. If a diagnosis of hearing loss is confirmed, then services can be implemented almost immediately. The child and family will be introduced to language and educational choices. They will also be linked to support services within the community and the state.

The goal of DODHH is to "protect and assist people with hearing loss." Hearing loss impacts people of all ages, including infants. The EHDI program protects our youngest citizens by identifying and striving to close the "gaps" that currently exist in the world of hearing loss. Information on EHDI and the Stakeholder Initiative is available at the EHDI website on www.michigan.gov.ehdi.

Interpreter Bill Introduced

(Continued from page 1)

for years. It will have a very positive impact on the interpreters providing effective communication resulting in equal access for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind adults and children who use interpreter services as well as the general public.

What does the bill do?

- It amends the existing Deaf Person's Interpreter Act of 1982 that covers the courts and administrative hearings only.
- It expands coverage to educational institutions, medical providers, financial institutions, legal arenas, employers and state and local governments.
- It defines "qualified sign language and oral interpreter."
- It adds DeafBlind person to definitions.
- It authorizes DODHH to promulgate administrative rules covering requirements for certification, testing, application fees, and application and grievance procedures.

An interpreter who engages in interpreting without qualifications will be punished by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine not more than \$10,000 and not less than \$1,000, or both. An appointing authority who appoints an unqualified interpreter shall be punished by a fine not more than \$10,000 and not less than \$1,000.

For a copy of bill, go to www.michiganlegislature.org and enter 6087 in the bill search number box.

Why this bill? Michigan Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind adults and children have experienced negative consequences from using non-qualified interpreters provided to them over the years. The state/local governments and public accommodations that provide interpreters as required by state and federal laws must hire qualified interpreters under this proposed law. The legislation will hopefully increase recognition of interpreters as professional service providers when this bill becomes law. Michigan will join with the growing number of states with interpreter licensure/standards legislation. For a list of states, see www.rid.org/lic.html.

Like all bills in the Michigan House and Senate, the bill will die on December 31, 2006, if there is no action on it. **It is important that you express your thoughts to your local representative and senator soon.** To find a representative, go to up in www.house.mi.gov and www.senate.mi.gov and enter your zip code.

If you have any questions, contact Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing at toll free number 877-499-6232 voice or TTY or dodhh@michigan.gov.

DODHH Advisory Council Meeting

September 14-15, 2006
Radisson Hotel
111 North Grand Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Sept. 14
8:00 am to 12:00 pm Sept. 15
For information, contact DODHH



Hard of Hearing Corner

Twyla Niedfeldt
Hard of Hearing Specialist

Who Are We in an Emergency?

Several years ago my oldest daughter had a serious accident when we were on a family canoeing expedition and the experience had a lasting, profound impact on me. My daughter and I were in the same canoe when it capsized. My glasses fell into the water and drifted downstream along with everything else in the boat. In the process of trying to retrieve our belongings, my daughter stepped on an unknown object in the river and severely punctured her foot. A minor mishap suddenly became an emergency, and I could not see to read the lips of bystanders or emergency responders! My daughter needed to be transported to the hospital, and I felt incompetent to go with her because I could not see (or hear). My sister-in-law assumed my role as a mother, and I was heartbroken when I had to wait several hours before I could arrive at her bedside. Over the years, this experience has made me think of the many roles that

people with hearing loss fulfill and how they could be altered at a time of disaster. I strongly encourage all of you to think about this and discuss it as part of your family emergency preparedness plans.

The Mystery of Hearing Loss

As I eagerly await the birth of my first grandchild, I am also anxious about the beginning of this new generation. Since my hearing loss has always been a mystery, we are uncertain if there are any undetected genetic links. My hearing loss was not detected until I started school, so there are no answers as to how or when it developed. Today parents can have answers shortly after the birth of a child. As an informed consumer, my daughter is asking questions about the Newborn Hearing Screening, and she understands the importance of following through with whatever recommendations are made. Her doctor was quite surprised that she

was even aware of this procedure, as it is not widely advertised to parents in Texas. My daughter has now made it a personal goal to inform all of the pregnant women that she knows about the importance of this screening! Another seed has been planted!

CapTel

I share the excitement with many of you who have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of CapTel in Michigan! I was very fortunate to "inherit" a CapTel phone when I started this job, and I never realized how much I depended on it until last week when it had to be shipped out for repairs! Although I still had an amplified telephone, I was constantly looking for text support that was not there. Until the replacement phone arrived, I tried to limit the number of calls that I was making and receiving. The CapTel telephone is an accommodation that permits me to perform an essential function of my job. There are also several people on my "waiting list" who are awaiting the arrival of the CapTel service so that they can determine if it will improve telephone access for them at their jobs. If you are struggling with the telephone at your place of employment, the CapTel may be a consideration for you, too.

EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR DEAF AND HH

Plant a seed and watch it grow. All it takes is one person to bring an issue to the forefront of our consciousness and the roots and branches of ideas start to prosper! A letter written by a consumer to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coalition illustrated a first-hand account of the vulnerability of people with hearing loss

during emergencies. The Coalition now has a very active Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee that is addressing many issues on local, state, and national levels.

As a member of the coalition and the subcommittee, DODHH has been a key player in bringing to-

gether resources and opportunities to raise awareness about issues such as inaccessible emergency notification systems, lack of effective communication procedures and technology at emergency shelters, and the exclusion of persons with hearing loss in emergency planning.

(Continued on page 5)

Day at the State Capitol — May 17, 2006

Approximately 175 deaf and hard of hearing people, family members, and friends attended a Day at the State Capitol in Lansing on May 17. The Deaf /HH people met individually with their senators and state representatives on issues related to hearing loss.

The issues included hearing aid tax credits, insurance coverage and Medicaid funding for hearing aids, school age hearing and vision screenings, establishing sign language interpreter standards; and statewide emergency

notification procedures for people with hearing loss.



Audience listening to speakers



Students from Detroit Day School/Deaf

Other activities during the day included lunch with the legislators and visits to Senate and House galleries. In both sessions attendees were introduced and given standing ovations by the legislators. Sign language interpreters, captioning, and assistive listening devices were available throughout the day to give Deaf /HH people full communication access.



Interpreter in House gallery



CART in House gallery

The event was deemed a huge success. Next year's DASC is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Mark your calendar now!

Emergency

(Continued from page 4)

In November of 2005 I was honored to be sponsored by the Coalition to attend an intensive Emergency Planning conference on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. This is where I learned about a grant project called CEPIN

(Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network). This grant was funded by the U.S Department of Homeland Security and awarded to TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) with

We never know when or where disaster may strike, but we can take comfort in knowing that the people who are assigned to protect us are aware of who we are and what we need before, during, and after an emergency.

the intent of designing a training program that would foster DIRECT interaction between persons with hearing loss and emergency responders. Regional coordinators were assigned from different areas of the country, and they will conduct workshops in areas that have been identified as high-risk/ high-threat for emergencies. It is not a surprise to many of us that Detroit was chosen as one of these

areas. Therefore, the Emergency Preparedness subcommittee is working diligently with DODHH as the host agency to plan this workshop with the guidance of CEPIN.

Other projects of the subcommittee include preparing information for submission into publications distributed by emergency management, developing a public service announcement, and continued collaboration with the Michigan Broadcasters Association regarding accessible media alerts.

The seed of awareness has been firmly planted! Now it is exciting and comforting to watch the branches grow. We never know when or where disaster may strike, but we can take comfort in knowing that the people who are assigned to protect us are aware of who we are and what we need before, during, and after an emergency.

Interpreters – This News Is for You



New State Interpreter: Janet Jurus

DODHH is proud to introduce Janet Jurus, the new State of Michigan Interpreter. Ms. Jurus began her position with DODHH in January of 2006.



Ms. Jurus is a Nationally Certified Interpreter who received her formal training at Lansing Community College and attended Michigan State University and majored in Communications. Ms. Jurus has been a faculty member for the Lansing Community College Sign Language/Interpreter Training Program since 2003 and also worked as a contract interpreter with the State of Michigan for four years prior to be hired at DODHH. Ms. Jurus is the proud daughter of Deaf parents and has been immersed in Deaf culture since childhood.

As the State Interpreter, Ms. Jurus' primary responsibility is to provide accessibility within state government. She provides interpreting services for employees, departments, bureaus, divisions, agencies, and other facets within state government. Ms. Jurus also assists in coordinating full accessibility at public events hosted by the State. In addition, Ms. Jurus provides accessibility within the office of DODHH for employees and con-

sumers alike. Ms. Jurus also serves to educate and assist all of state government as well as the private sector, in complying with the ADA standards of accessibility and inclusion for all citizens. DODHH welcomes Ms. Jurus as its newest staff member!

Interpreters, did you know.....?

Michigan has adopted the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment (EIPA) test for its K-12 educational interpreters. Please refer to the article in this as well as future editions of the DODHH Bulletin for continued updates.

For more information:

www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA/index.asp

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, developed a referent group (Group) to address the status of educational interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) students in Michigan.

To participate in the Qualified Interpreter Educational Survey (online):

www.cenmi.org/msdb-LIO/interpreters.asp

If you are a RID associate interpreter, you may join the Associate Continuing Education Track-

ing (ACET) program. Tracking of CEUs begins once the \$15 ACET fee is received for the fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The ACET program is designed to track and document your continuing education for the fiscal year. An annual transcript of your activities and CEUs is then printed and sent to you. For more information:

www.rid.org

If you are working as a QA or RID private contract/freelance interpreter, you should buy your own liability insurance. If you are not a full-time employee with your agency or employer, you most likely are not covered in the event of litigation. You may purchase Interpreter Liability Insurance through Marsh Affinity Group. The rates are less than you would expect. For more information:

www.rid.org

For Fun.....

Q: Michigan has how many interpreters that are RID Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L)

Q What are their names?

Q: How many QA interpreters does Michigan currently have?

Q: How many RID interpreters does Michigan currently have?

Q: How many NAD interpreters does Michigan currently have?

See answers below:

A: 2
A: Agnes Forest & Maureen Wallace
A: (QA) 258
A: (RID) 62
A: (NAD) 17

Tips for QA Renewal



June and July not only bring sun, fun, and fireworks but its also Quality Assurance renewal time. Your QA I, II, or III credentials are valid for a four year cycle. However, once a year you are required to provide your 24 QA CEU units and a

renewal fee of \$15.00. You will then receive proof of credentials for the upcoming QA cycle.

Here is a list of helpful tips and reminders to assist not only new but seasoned interpreters in maintaining your credentials and continuing to be a viable professional resource within our state.

- The QA cycle runs from July 31 to June 30 of each year. DODHH will send renewal letters to all current QA Interpreters upon renewal time
- To remain current:
- Pay a \$15.00 renewal fee
- Provide written/copies documentation of 24 QA units for the year.
- You are responsible for tracking your QA units
- We urge you to maintain additional copies of your units for your personal records.
- 1QA Unit = 1 hr (DODHH approved event/activity) *See list below
- If your QA is not renewed, your name will not be listed in the most current DODHH Interpreter Directory or provided as valid in the database of currently qualified interpreters.
- Please provide your most current contact information, including email address on your renewal forms, for our records.
- Please direct your QA renewal information to the address listed on the QA renewal form.
- When your four year QA cycle is complete, you will receive a letter inviting you to a new QA examination test.
- A reminder that if you do choose to do business as an interpreting vendor with the State of Michigan including state agencies, offices or departments, you must have on file at DODHH: Current credentials, liability insur-

ance and proof of automobile insurance.

- This is according to State of Michigan vendor regulations.
- Please visit: www.michigan.gov for details on how to become a vendor with the State of Michigan.

*****Be aware that if you choose to not pay your maintenance fee and/or provide QA units documentation, your QA will lapse as of August 15 and you will not receive a new card, therefore forfeiting your credentials at a State of Michigan Qualified Interpreter.***

What qualifies for QA units?

DODHH receives many calls from interpreters inquiring about what can be used for their required QA units. The information is listed in the QA informational booklet available at DODHH. It is also listed here for your convenience.

Continuing Education Unit activities include but are not limited to the following.

- Attending interpreter or community workshops
- Attending national, regional and state conventions
- Video/CD viewing with RID/NAD or CDI interpreters
- Prep/Presentations for peers or Deaf community
- Taking a class - especially related to continual skill development
- Board meetings that include Deaf members
- Attending state or regional interpreter or Deaf or Hard of Hearing meetings
- In-services (topics pre-approved)
- Research (topics pre-approved)
- Teleconferences (topics pre-approved)
- Book report from an approved list (LAST RESORT)

Please do not hesitate to contact DODHH with any questions regarding your QA renewal process.

dodhh@michigan.gov
1-877-499-6232
1- 517-335-6004

Application Form for CapTel

Hamilton Relay has arranged, for a limited time only, to make CapTel phones available for just \$99.00 for Michigan residents only. The retail value is \$495.00. Now is your chance to try CapTel at no risk! Their 90-day guarantee means that if you are not entirely happy with CapTel, simply return the phone for a full refund.

<p style="text-align: center;">Payment Method</p> <p>___ Check or money order enclosed, payable to WCI (please add \$7.50 for shipping, for a total of \$106.50 per phone)</p> <p>___ Charge to credit card: ___ VISA ___ MasterCard ___ Am. Express ___ Discover</p> <p>Account # _____ Exp. Date _____ CCV# _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ordered By/Bill To:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: (_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/>Voice <input type="checkbox"/>TTY</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Send Order to:</p> <p>Weitbrecht Communications, Inc. 926 Colorado Avenue Santa Monica, CA 90401-2717</p> <p>Toll Free: 1-800-233-9130 (V/TTY) 310-656-4924 (V/TTY) Fax: 310-450-9918 Email: sales@weitbrecht.com www.weitbrecht.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ship To (If different from "Ordered By"):</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: (_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/>Voice <input type="checkbox"/>TTY</p>

The DODHH Bulletin is produced up to four times a year. Persons interested in deafness or hard of hearing may subscribe at no cost by contacting DODHH.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in THE DODHH Bulletin are those of the author. Mention of goods and services does not mean DODHH endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

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"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."
 -[Helen Keller](#)

2006 Calendar of Events

Below dates of activities are related to DODHH and MCDC. Contact us for more information. For general Deaf and Hard of Hearing events, check E-Michigan for Deaf and Hard of Hearing website: www.michdhh.org

July 31, 2006	Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People meeting, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm, Emergency Operators Center meeting room, 655 N. State St, Stanton, MI
August 10-13, 2006	Deaf-Blind Workshop, Holley Family Center, DeSales Center, Brooklyn, MI
September 14, 2006	DODHH Advisory Council meeting, Radisson Hotel, Lansing, MI. 6:00 to 10:00 pm
September 15, 2006	Joint meeting with MCDC and SILC, Radisson Hotel, Lansing, MI 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
October 27-28, 2006	DODHH/MDE Educational Interpreter Workshop — Details to be announced
February 16, 2007	DODHH Advisory Council meeting, Michigan Economic Development Council building, Lansing, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
May 4, 2007	DODHH Advisory Council meeting, Michigan Economic Development Council building, Lansing, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to this agency.